

# Making sense of the crisis in Indian newsrooms 2020

For an online webinar organised by NWMI online on 30 May 2020

# Cyril Sam

Independent journalist

Based in New Delhi

Report, research on the business of journalism, political economy of communication technologies

@cyrilsam

# Work In Progress

Tracking layoffs and cutbacks

Layoff and cutback tracker: [bit.ly/newsatcovid19](https://bit.ly/newsatcovid19)

Survey form: [bit.ly/newsatcovid19survey](https://bit.ly/newsatcovid19survey)

Twitter: @cyrilsam

Email: [samcyril@protonmail.com](mailto:samcyril@protonmail.com)

# WIP: Tracking layoffs and cutbacks

Began on 14 April,

Online survey on 17 April,

55 entries

24 Survey responses,

15 newsroom emails

10 public announcements

# WIP: Tracking layoffs and cutbacks

Closures at: One

Layoffs at: 13

Furloughs at: Two

Salary cuts at: 22

Shutting down of bureaus at: Four

Suspension of print editions at: 7

# WIP: Tracking layoffs and cutbacks

This is the fourth wave of layoffs in across newsrooms in the last decade. It is different this time because it:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Impact all forms of media and media organisations | 4. Is just the trailer of what is to follow in the coming weeks                              |
| 2. Is structural: Advertising crunch                 | 5. Is the beginning of a structural shift in the business. This time, jobs are not returning |
| 3. Will be a longer period of flux                   |  |

# WIP: Tracking layoffs and cutbacks

Gaps in my work:

1. Not exhaustive,
2. Regional language news media,
3. Lack of official communication,
4. Number of journalists affected,

# WIP: Tracking layoffs and cutbacks

Emerging trends:

1. Changing terms of contracts, more retainers and stringers
2. Push for direct reader revenue: Paywalls
3. Digitisation, accelerated death of print
4. Streamlining: More demanding KPIs for journalists
5. Worsening mental health of journalists
6. Closure of upcountry editions
7. Worsening news deserts



# WIP: Tracking layoffs and cutbacks

Survey form: [bit.ly/newsatcovid19survey](https://bit.ly/newsatcovid19survey)

Tracker: [bit.ly/newsatcovid19](https://bit.ly/newsatcovid19)

Twitter: [@cyrilsam](https://twitter.com/cyrilsam)

Email: [samcyril@protonmail.com](mailto:samcyril@protonmail.com)